

Remarks/Arguments

This paper is submitted responsive to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2007. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner rejected claim 12 and all dependent claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims all claims over prior art.

By the present paper, claims 12-21 have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims 22-28 presented for consideration. These claims are drafted based upon the prior set of claims, do not contain new matter, and are believed to define patentably over the art of record.

Independent claim 22 has been drafted to combine features from previous claims 16, 17 and 21 into claim 12, and this claim is believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Claim 22 now calls for a number of features which are all absent from the art of record. Specifically, when trigger element (6) is turned on upon opening operation of a cover (28) mounted adjacent to inlet (33), self-holding circuit (5) is switched from an inactive to an active condition to supply electric power from battery (1) through self-holding circuit (5) to drive controller (2), validation sensor (4) and conveyer (3), and at the same time, drive controller (2) causes a timer to start counting time elapse since trigger element (6) is turned on.

Further, a stack sensor (42) detects stowage of a valuable paper into an accumulation chamber (44) in

stacking device (41) to produce a detection signal to drive controller (2) which then provides a control terminal of shutoff circuit (7) with a control signal to switch self-holding circuit (5) from the active to the inactive condition to interrupt the power supply through self-holding circuit (5) except dark current.

When drive controller (2) does not decide the paper inserted from inlet (33) is genuine, it rotates conveyer (3) in the adverse direction to return the paper to inlet (33) and then switches self-holding circuit (5) from the active to the inactive condition, when the timer has counted a predetermined period of time.

Accordingly, the present invention can effectively interrupt power source through self-holding circuit (5) when valuable paper is stowed into accumulation chamber (44) or when timer counts over a predetermined period of time after trigger element (6) is turned on to extremely reduce power consumption in the discriminating device for power saving and increase in battery life in a place where no power can be supplied.

None of the art of record discloses or suggests this subject matter.

WO 92/09057-A1 to Barnes discloses, on page 14 lines 11 to 13, a battery-powered vending and dispensing apparatus wherein control board 11 applies power to a coin mechanism 16 or bill validator 17 when coin wake-up sensor 19 or bill sensor 21 detects any coins or bills.

U.S. Patent No. 4,784,274 to Mori discloses, in Figure 6, a bill device 31 which comprises a bill discrimination means 33 for discriminating false and true bills inserted

from a bill insertion slit 32; a temporary retention means 34 capable of temporarily retaining a plurality of true bills accepted by discrimination means 33; and a bill accumulator 35 for accumulating the retained bills. No power saving means is shown.

U.S. Patent No. 3,266,060 to Springer discloses, in column 5 lines 5 to 13, a toilet unit which comprises a seat cover 32 and an electrical mercury switch 71 turned on by an opening operation of seat cover 32 to supply electric power to a fan 75. This patent is submitted to be not at all pertinent to the present invention.

Based upon the foregoing, it appears that none of the applied art, alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests the features of the present invention as set forth in the redrafted claims. It is therefore believed that claims 22-28 are in condition for allowance, and such early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough effort has been made to resolve all issues in this application and place same in condition for allowance. If, upon considering this response, the Examiner is of the opinion that issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned and to discuss and resolve same.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this paper. If, however, any such fee or fee deficiency is due, please charge same to Deposit Account 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,
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